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# "How pleasant it is . . . unity"

By Robert Hastings

EULESS, Texas (BP)—"How pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

That verse, Psalm 133:1, in big letters on an outdoor sign, greets visitors to the First Baptist Church, where Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr., is pastor.

"And I hope that verse will set the tone for our annual convention in Pittsburgh," Draper said in an interview in his office less than two months before the June meeting.

"I'll be disappointed if I'm opposed for a second term as president," Draper explained, "for we need another year of openness and for me to demonstrate that I want all segments of our Baptist life to be heard and represented."

"I've made some mistakes this first year, either doing or saying something I shouldn't. But remember—no one trained me to be presi-

dent. Another year will give me a chance to be a better president."

Draper said he doesn't know how he could have been more open to suggestions from all quarters, or demonstrate a greater willingness to do what is right.

"I conferred with the vice-presidents, as well as state denominational leadership and others, in making committee appointments. And I released them well in advance through Baptist Press. In fact, they would have been released earlier, but I bent over backwards to check out each nominee, to make sure of his denominational loyalty, especially as reflected in the Cooperative Program gifts of the church where he or she is a member."

Draper said he'd hoped the Committee on Boards would have released its nominations 60 days prior to Pittsburgh. "But I told Charles

Stanley of Atlanta's First Baptist Church, 'Don't release names until your committee has verified that you know who you're nominating, and that you can verify his loyalty as a Southern Baptist.' I reminded him that otherwise, the committee's report likely would be challenged."

In reviewing the first 10 months of his presidency, Draper admitted, "I'm tired, but it's been a good year. I've had fantastic support from men like Harold C. Bennett, W. C. Fields, Dan Martin, John Dunaway, and Tim Hedquist of the SBC Executive Committee. None of these men gave any evidence of a hidden agenda or efforts to manipulate me."

"And it's been a good year in our church. Although I've been away three to four days every week, the average weekly attendance has increased 200 persons—and this on top of a 285 average weekly increase last year. Gifts

and baptisms are at an all time high, and each of our two morning services attract right at 1,800 persons."

Draper said he "grew up on revivals" under the ministry of his father, who died at age 52. "I was saved in a revival from the preaching of C. E. Matthews and, like him, I've majored on soul-winning. If there's anything that bothers me, it's a theology that will make a pastor lose that zeal."

Draper said he was asked almost a year in advance of the 1982 convention in New Orleans if he would consider being nominated. "Four pastors here in Tarrant County took me out to lunch and asked if I'd accept a nomination. I gave them a list of 25 persons across the country, and asked if they'd call and sample their opinion. All 25 were positive. I shared this with our deacons at their May 1982 meeting. I told them it was not to be 'my' decision but 'our'

decision. These deacons then sent me home from that meeting."

"For an hour and a half, they prayed over it. Then they gave me the green light, assuring me of their support. And they really have. My church has been fantastic, it's been a maturing experience for them."

"When I went to New Orleans in 1982, I felt I'd be nominated. I didn't play 'surprised.' But I also made it clear that I was to be my own man, that I was 'owned' by no one."

Draper, who makes no apology for being conservative, wishes grassroots Baptists would understand one thing about the conservative movement in the denomination. "For the most part, conservatives want to be heard, to have a voice," he explained. "We're not out to dismantle, destroy, or take over anything. I think a lot of so-called moderates are really (Continued on page 4)



## The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

JACKSON MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1983



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### SBC Resolutions Committee holds preliminary meeting

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—For the first time in recent history, the Southern Baptist Convention Resolutions Committee met prior to the annual meeting to organize, discuss potential resolutions, and get acquainted.

Tal Bonham, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, and chairman of the resolutions committee, told Baptist Press after the two-day session: "This was an orientation meeting, at which we reviewed procedure for presenting resolutions in Pittsburgh."

"President James T. Draper Jr. shared the details of the method which will be used this year at the SBC. The committee got acquainted and spent time in prayer for a harmonious convention. We considered resolutions submitted thus far and discussed possible resolutions that might be submitted."

"We feel this pre-convention meeting will help us do our job better and prevent the previously rushed manner in which the resolutions committee has been required to do its work."

Bonham said the committee, which unanimously approved his statement to the news media, renewed its request that any person desiring to present a resolution to the convention send a copy to the committee by June 6, in order that it might be properly considered.

Written versions of potential resolutions are requested to be sent to Harold C. Bennett, executive director-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn. 37219.

The 10-member committee, appointed by Draper in January, spent the afternoon-morning session listen-

ing to Draper, being oriented by Reginald McDonough, executive committee staffer, who works with the committee, and hearing presentations by three agency executives.

James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D.C., discussed church-state concerns with the committee; Foy D. Valentine, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, Nashville, Tenn., talked of social concerns, and William R. O'Brien, executive vice president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., told members of concerns about the international implications of potential resolutions.

Both Draper and Bonham told Baptist Press the preliminary meeting was made necessary by the increasing number of resolutions introduced at the annual meeting of the convention, to be June 14-16, in Pittsburgh Civic Arena. In 1982, at the New Orleans annual meeting, messengers submitted 46 separate resolutions, which SBC bylaws require the resolutions committee to receive and consider during the three-day meeting.

McDonough, also associate execu-

tive secretary and director of program planning for the SBC Executive Committee, pointed out the number of resolutions submitted has grown enormously across the past few years, many of them dealing with opposing positions on volatile social, theological, doctrinal, and political issues.

For example, he said, the 46 submitted resolutions was an "all time record" for the SBC. By contrast, at the 1965 annual meeting, only six resolutions were proposed.

Draper, who outlined changes he plans to make in the introduction of resolutions in Pittsburgh earlier this year, detailed those changes for committee members. He also defined what he considers to be a resolution. "My definition is a traditional one," he said. "A resolution is an expression of opinion . . . support, dismay, or whatever. A resolution is not a call for action. Any resolution which calls for action will be ruled a motion. A motion is a call for specific action; a resolution is not."

Draper outlined the procedure (Continued on page 4)



The Baptist institute in Asuncion, Paraguay, is in the process of repairing its front wall. In the process it is doing some remodeling work. The wall fell two years ago when a utility repair crew damaged the foundation. The utility concern took no responsibility.



Carter Dobbs, dentist from Calhoun City and a Paraguayan assistant work on the teeth of an Indian girl who was living in temporary quarters in the city park in Asuncion. (Photos by Don McGregor)

### Falls, dam, missionary amaze Paraguayan visitor

By Don McGregor

A visit to Stroessner, Paraguay, located on the Parana River, which separates Paraguay from Brazil, revealed three amazing situations. The first was just across the border in Brazil. A sort of friendship bridge spans the river at Stroessner and links that Paraguayan city with Foz do Iguaçu on the Brazilian side. They are almost one city though located in two countries. Traffic streams back and forth across the bridge unhindered for the most part by customs checks. The Brazilian city is named for the famed Iguaçu Falls, which are just a few miles away.

Iguaçu Falls may very well be the most outstanding spectacle of the Western Hemisphere. Theodore Roosevelt is said to have visited Iguaçu Falls and said, "Poor Niagara." Iguaçu is a magnificent sight which defies description or being captured by a still camera.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and I spent a great deal of an afternoon walking along the edge of Iguaçu Falls and trying to drink in its ever-changing vista. The falls are located on the Iguaçu

River, which separates Argentina from Brazil at that point. They are located at a point just before the Iguaçu feeds into the Parana River near the twin international cities of Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, and Presidente Stroessner, Paraguay. The Parana River separates the two cities and the two nations at that point. The Parana eventually is joined by the Uruguay River to form the great bay between Montevideo, Uruguay, and Buenos Aires, Argentina, known as the Rio de la Plata. Miles back upriver the Paraguayan River has already become a part of the Parana. That is the reason that the three nations of Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina are known as the Rio de la Plata.

But back to the falls. The visitor is greeted by the sound of water falling about 270 feet into a gorge, though the fall is not all in one place and interrupted. Actually there are hundreds of individual falls separated by rocky and forested islands. From end to end the falls stretch for 2½ miles.

As one walks along the side the picture changes constantly. It is a photographer's delight, and I took 36 color slides as we visited the area that afternoon. Walks are constructed so that one is able to go to the edge of the falls

and in some instances even walk out over them.

Both Stroessner and Foz (as the Brazilian city is known) use an airport in Brazil that brings visitors to the falls. As the plane approaches the airport the pilot always circles the falls to give passengers an upper-level view of the cascading river.

We were picked up at the airport by missionary Ken Watkins and his son, Tim. They escorted us on a tour of the falls and then took us across the bridge into Paraguay and Stroessner. Stroessner is a relatively new city. Though he is well along in years, Stroessner is still the president of the country.

The second point of amazement is the hydroelectric dam at Itaipu. This dam, on the Parana River, also spans from Paraguay to Brazil as does the bridge a little farther down river at Stroessner and Foz. The dam is being built by both nations, and when it is completed it will be the largest dam in the world. Its breadth will cover two miles.

The third of the amazing situations is the perpetual motion missionary, Watkins, who is stationed at Stroessner. He went to that city 16 years ago (Continued on page 3)

#### MBCB

### Blankenship elected; MSU BSU will build

O. Farrell Blankenship, minister of education for First Church, Hattiesburg, was elected as director of broadcast services for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and bids were authorized for new construction and renovation of the Baptist Student Union Building at Mississippi State University during the Convention Board Executive Committee's meeting last week at Alta Woods Church, Jackson.

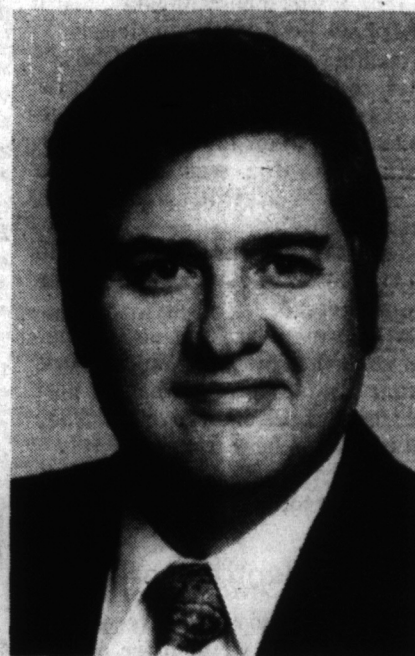
The committee also approved the expenditure of \$45,700 in disaster relief funds to 13 churches and associations and nine individuals, approved an agricultural missionary intern program for the Brotherhood Department, and authorized a missionary student internship program for the Baptist Student Union at the University of Mississippi.

The purchase of a new press for the Baptist Building print shop was approved at a cost of \$19,257.

Blankenship has been a staff member at First Church, Hattiesburg, since 1965. As a part of his responsibilities he is also general manager of the cable television ministry of First Church. He grew up in Johnson City, Tenn., and is a business administration graduate of East Tennessee State University. He also has a master of science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master of religious education degree from

Southwestern Seminary. He has been minister of education at First Church, Groves, Tex.; minister of youth at Cliff Temple Church, Dallas, Texas; and minister of youth at College Avenue Church, Fort Worth, Texas. He was ordained to the ministry in 1973 by First Church, Hattiesburg.

He served in the Army Signal Corps from 1955 to 1957. Blankenship and his (Continued on page 3)



Farrell Blankenship

### Washington SBC site plans are postponed

WASHINGTON (BP)—Plans to present the nation's capital as an alternate site for the 1989 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention apparently have been scrapped, after officials of the D. C. Convention Bureau filled the available dates with another convention.

Vernon Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Alexandria, Va., told Baptist Press he planned to present Washington as an alternate to Las Vegas, which will be proposed to messengers at the 1983 annual meeting by the SBC Executive Committee.

Both the general board of the Baptist General Association of Virginia (state convention) and the executive body of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention voted unanimously to extend the invitation.

While the move to present an alternate site has some denominational (Continued on page 3)

#### McGlocklin will manage bookstore

NASHVILLE—Charles McGlocklin, manager of Baptist Book Stores in Memphis since 1974, will become manager of the Jackson, Miss., book store June 1, succeeding retired manager Tom Gambrell.

A native of Levelland, Texas, McGlocklin is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and has done additional study at Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

McGlocklin began his book store career as manager of the seminary store in 1965. Later he served as assistant manager of the Atlanta (Ga.) Baptist Book Store and as manager of the Roanoke store.

#### What's Inside?

Editorial by Don McGregor, Page 2

Thirty years and 1,500 issues

Guest editorial by James Yates, Page 2

Pentecost on Pentecost Sunday

Nominations sought for MBC boards, Page 4

Mississippians are graduated from Southwestern, Page 5

# Editorials.....by don mcgregor

## Thirty years and 1,500 issues

A little more than 31 years ago I first became connected with a Baptist state paper. It was in March of 1952, and the paper was the Baptist Standard in Texas. I have, however, worked for three different state papers, including the Baptist Record and the California Southern Baptist, and I spent 4½ years during those 31 working for the Dallas Times Herald (a daily), publishing my own three weekly papers, and working in public relations for an insurance company.

We have at the Baptist Record a staff member who followed me into the state paper field by only a little more than a year, on May 20, 1953; and she has been right here ever since. She is Anne McWilliams, editorial associate; and on May 20 she will observe her 30th anniversary with the Baptist Record.

Anne has worked with four editors—A. L. Goodrich, W. C. Fields, Joe Odle, and the present editor. I hope she will make no comparison of the four for herself, but there is no ques-

tion but that each of the four found her to be a very willing, capable, and dedicated worker.

Anne fits into a critical spot in the Baptist Record staff as it is presently constituted. Her greatest renown comes from her column, Faces and Places; and that is as it should be. That is one of the best read elements of the paper. She also has found success as a feature story writer and over the past few years has begun to function well as a photographer.

The critical spot fits into the paper's philosophy of majoring on local church news, however. As the news material crosses the editor's desk, the local church news is routed to Anne for the finishing touches. Some items require more finishing than others, but she takes care of it. This material also is very widely read.

I have been blessed with associates with long tenures. In California, Polly McNabb, the associate editor, has already crossed the 30-year mark. She

had in more than 20 years when I left there 9½ years ago.

At the Baptist Record, Evelyn Keyes, the advertising manager and editor's secretary, will observe 17 years next week. Florence Larimore, proof reader, photo finisher, and public relations secretary, will soon celebrate 14 years. Renee Walley, circulation manager, has been at the Baptist Building for 9½ years and with the Baptist Record 4½ years.

The others have come since I did 8½ years ago but still have in several years with us. Tim Nicholas, associate editor, has been here 6½ years. Betty Anne Bailey, bookkeeper, has 6 years. Gail Wood, data input operator, has been at the Baptist Building 3 years and with the Baptist Record 1 year.

These people are due the commendation of Mississippi Baptists for their ability and dedication. Mississippi Baptists need to know who they are and what they do. The main emphasis at this point, however, falls on Anne

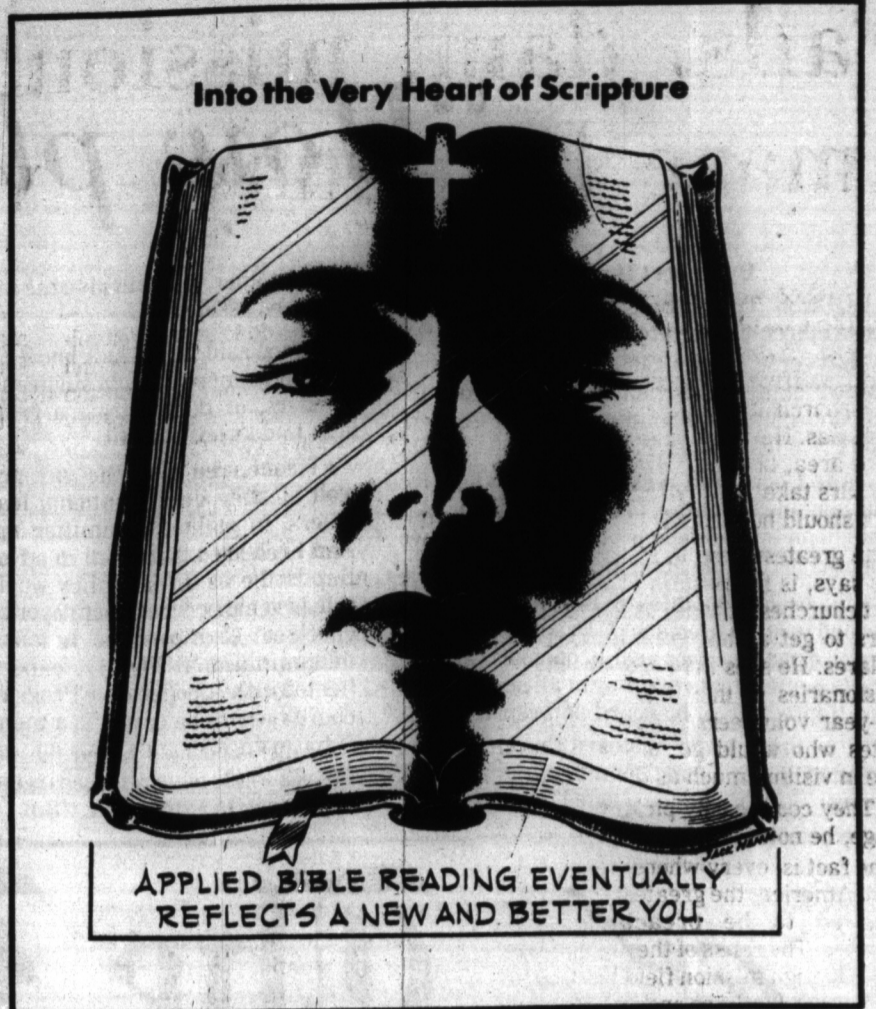
McWilliams. This is her anniversary issue, and we salute her.

Her contribution to the Kingdom of God through the Baptist Record will not be measured completely until after the age is finished and eternity has begun.

Anne has worked on 1,500 issues of the Baptist Record. Mississippi Baptists are in her debt for being a faithful and able participant in the effort to help the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention be better able to carry out their mission of witnessing to the world.

She has traveled to the Middle East, to Europe, to Central America and South America, to the Orient, to Mexico, and to Canada during these past 30 years. She has written books including one about Gulfshore and another about David Gomes, a Brazilian Baptist pastor.

She has helped to mold the Baptist Record. To Anne we all say, Thank you.



## Guest opinion . . .

### Pentecost on Pentecost Sunday

By James F. Yates

Our Southern Baptist churches are being called upon to get involved in an effort which could result in the establishment of 1,000 new churches a year for the next five years. This is the goal adopted by a vote of the messengers at the meeting of the convention in New Orleans last year. It is significant that a day of commitment has been set for Pentecost Sunday, May 22. It will be recalled that on that first Pentecost, 3,000 people were added to the church. It is hoped that on this Pentecost Sunday, 3,000 commitments will be made to start new churches.

In 1956, at the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City, the Convention accepted the challenge of Dr. C. C. Warren, its president, to "double the number of Southern Baptist preaching places by adding 5,000

new churches and 25,000 missions before the celebration of our third jubilee in 1964." The purpose of the movement became: "To establish 10,000 churches and 20,000 missions by 1964 to reach, teach, and win individuals to Christ and train them to live Christian lives."

The final results are notable. The movement committee reported that 24,917 churches and missions had been started between June 1, 1956, and December 31, 1964. A total of 6,682 churches and 18,235 missions had been established.

Now another call has gone out. It is estimated that there are more than 100,000,000 unchurched Americans in our nation. Missions and new churches can be started anywhere there is a need. It may be in your own community, or in some other part of the state, or in some other part of the country.

Back in 1967 the First Baptist Church of Yazoo City, Miss., adopted a program we chose to call "Operation 30-10." The name was taken from the goal of the project which was to assist in the organization of 30 new churches and missions in the 10-year period of 1967-1976. It was one of the finest things we have ever done. As a result, when the 10-year period was concluded, we continued a Direct Missions Program which has followed the philosophy of the original effort.

Since our Yazoo County, like many others in Mississippi, has not experienced population growth, we have looked elsewhere to lend our assistance, primarily in the new areas of our country, and especially in the heavily-populated areas. Thus, it has been our privilege to get involved in work in Montana, Indiana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and West Vir-

ginia, just to name a few. It has been one of the most rewarding things we have done. At the same time, our gifts through the Cooperative Program have increased, as have gifts to all mission causes, including the special mission offerings.

I would encourage all of our churches in Mississippi to look beyond themselves and to accept the challenge of beginning a new work somewhere. The blessings you will receive cannot be calculated. Pastors, your own church will be strengthened and your people will have a new heartbeat for missions. On this Pentecost Sunday, May 22, make a commitment to be one of 3,000 churches to start a new church in 1983-1994.

James F. Yates is pastor of First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, and President of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

## Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

### An Arkansas Baptist

"God has been good to us, hasn't he, Anne?" That's what my 90-year-old friend, Roland Johnson, said to me as I was leaving his hospital room in Jackson a few weeks ago. Though struggling for breath and fighting pain, he kept up his good-natured banter: "Tell W. D. I'm still going to beat him at fishing one of these days."

I'd only known this Arkansas Baptist four or five years, before he died last week, but I loved him from the first time I really had a chance to talk with him. His daughters, Billie and Sybil, are married to two of W. D.'s nephews, Lavelle and Vernon Tullios. His quiet, dry wit and his love for telling a good story reminded me of my own father. In his full and varied life, Mr. Johnson had been a farmer, baseball player, railroad man, builder, and barbecue cook.

Once he told me this story: "About 125 years ago," he said, "a paddlewheel riverboat set out upstream from New Orleans. The boat was called the Lottie Warner—for the owner's wife—and it followed the Quachita River into Arkansas. It was May. The 20 passengers had picked a time when the river was at flood stage to make the journey, so the water would be deep enough.

"There were not many people living along the river then—maybe a few Indians, a few Mexicans, a few Negroes, a few whites. Mostly woods. Among the passengers were doctors, lawyers, preachers, and one young man named Booser—who was studying to be a river pilot."

All along, they stopped to camp and rest. One night they stopped at a strip of land in the river, like an island. River banks were too far away to be seen. That night the Lottie Warner caught fire. Passengers got themselves and some of their belongings out onto the strip of land, but the lifeboats on top of the paddlewheeler burned.

How could the people get help? It looked like they were stuck. No one knew how far away the river banks were. And if anyone could get to shore, what would he find? Wild animals? unfriendly people?

Booser volunteered to try to swim

out, having no idea how far. Some urged him to stay, not to risk his life. Others wanted him to try. They advised, "When you get to land, keep walking along the bank until you come to wagon tracks. Follow them and they will lead you to a house or village."

Booser swam—it turned out to be two miles—to the bank. Then after a long walk, he finally came to houses of a man named Nash and his neighbor, Dollar. "This Dollar was my uncle," Mr. Johnson said. Nash and Dollar went with Booser to secure two flatboats, and took supplies, food, and fresh water to the stranded travelers. They got word to a freight boat to come and pick them up. The grateful passengers tried to pay Nash and Dollar. When the men refused money, the people left cash for them in a pillow slip, with a note of thanks, and returned to their homes.

Many years later, a lock and dam were built near the spot where the boat burned, called Lottie Warner Bend and later renamed Coon Glory Bend. This was near Felsenthal, Ark., where Mr. Johnson lived. Eighty-two years ago, when Roland Johnson was eight, and the river was low, he and his father saw the ruins of the Lottie Warner, parts of the decking and paddlewheel protruding from the water. At eight, he heard the story of a man who cared enough to risk his life for his friends, and he never forgot it.

When tragedy strikes, real heroes show their colors, now as then. I read recently about Dennis and Laurel Bowen, members of First Baptist Church, Van Nuys, Calif., new Christians who were on their honeymoon last year when the Amtrak train they were on caught fire. Two people were killed, and 57 hurt, but many were saved because Dennis and Laurel crawled through the smoke, waking people and helping them to safety.

Roland Johnson spent his long life helping to make other people happy. I think had the occasion arisen, he would have proved he was made of hero material.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13).

## Letters to the Editor

### Those cards and letters

Editor:

In response to your request for anecdotes from your readers I would like to encourage them not to postpone writing because they don't have the proper stationery. I remember reading an issue a few years ago that was so full of inspiration that I just had to write a "Thank you letter." I grabbed the handiest piece of paper, which happened to be the back of a large white (used) envelope. I planned to type it when I got to the office Monday. Unfortunately it was a busy Monday, and I didn't have time to type the letter.

I couldn't wait to mail my "Praise" letter, so I just folded the large white envelope and inserted it into a large brown one. When my office partner realized what I was doing, she exclaimed, "You are not going to mail that are you?"

Needless to say, she was surprised to read my letter in the next issue of the Baptist Record.

So grab the nearest piece of paper and let them know what you think—no matter if it's a grocery bag, a post card, or the back of an envelope. They will be glad to hear from you.

Carolyn Jones  
Greenwood, MS

sociates feel the SBC is on the verge of a witnessing landslide through the use of these creative and powerful reports.

Thank you for sharing this information with your readers.

Clarence B. Phiras, President  
Benjamin-Allan & Associates

This is an article written by Wilmer C. Fields, former Mississippi pastor and former editor of the Baptist Record. He is now assistant to the executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and public relations director. This is an in-depth look at Southern Baptists written by one who knows us well. It is on five pages of magazine-size sheets and has a full-color cover taken in the auditorium of First Baptist Church, Nashville. The cover is a replica of the cover of The Saturday Evening Post. Reprints can be ordered at 20 cents each by writing Benjamin-Allan and Associates, P. O. Box 91, Alexandria, Indian 46001. The phone number is (317) 724-2070. Shipments are made by UPS, and Mississippi is in Zone 4. Shipping costs are \$2.00 for 250 reprints; \$3.01, 500; \$6.02, 1,000; and double accordingly for 2,000, 3,000; and 4,000 to \$96.32 for 5,000. Discounts are available for 15,000 or more by calling or writing.—Editor

### Singing Churchmen

Editor:

At the airport in Montevideo, Uruguay, a few hours ago, we said goodbye to 25 newly made friends. It was certainly a pleasure to meet and be with this group for the past week. The Mississippi Singing Churchmen found a place in our hearts from the first day we met them.

The unity, love, and openness of this wonderful group was evident immediately. We feel that God had answered our prayers by sending the Singing Churchmen to Uruguay. They were heard in several towns throughout the country with most concerts having standing room only. Their last concert here was very warmly received as evidenced by four curtain calls. The professional quality of this singing group really blessed our hearts and those of the Uruguayan people.

We want to say thank you to each of the 25 men who came and to Missis-

siippi Baptists for sharing with us some of your gifted musicians. Until we meet again, where can we go, but to the Lord? We love each of you.

Joe and Jeanie Benfield  
Tammy, Greg and Jeana  
Av. Agraciada 3452  
Montevideo, Uruguay  
South America

### Anniversary at Fairview

Editor:

All former staff members and charter members of Fairview Baptist Church in Columbus, Mississippi will be honored guests at the Silver Anniversary Celebration September 25, 1983. The church is attempting to locate some of the charter members to send them an invitation. Addresses are needed for the following persons:

Mr. and Mrs. M. B. McLemore; Mrs. Carolyn Johnson; Mrs. O. C. Peterson; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schrader and Martha; Mrs. Richard Short; James Smith; Grace and Sandra; India Stevens; Robert St. John; Mrs. H. S. Vickers; Gerald and Doree Winstead; Wilson and Ann Edwards; Mrs. J. W. Haynes; and Jerrel Guest.

Fairview Baptist Church  
Columbus

### Southern Baptist reprints

We would like to report a record response for the reprint offer of the SATURDAY EVENING POST article on the SBC "The Southern Baptists—Not Just Whistling Dixie." Our first print order was for 1,000,000! As good as this is, it represents only about 1,500 pastors. This is, of course, due to the time it takes for information of this nature to reach the pastors. With this in mind, we are extending the deadline for ordering these reprints until July 4, 1983. We here at Benjamin-Allan & Associates

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Don McGregor Editor  
Tim Nicholas Associate Editor  
Anne McWilliams Editorial Associate

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James Yates

President

Earl Kelly

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205

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## For Anne Washburn McWilliams, one year stretches into thirty

By Tim Nicholas

When Anne Washburn McWilliams first joined the staff of the Baptist Record, she recalls, "The job didn't look like the kind of thing I'd want to spend my whole life doing."

However, on May 20, Anne will celebrate her 30th anniversary on the Baptist Record staff, currently as editorial associate and columnist.

She was a Southwestern Seminary student in 1953, having run out of money she'd saved from teaching fourth grade for two years, and needed a job. Then-editor A. L. Goodrich got her name from the placement office and hired her over the phone to be editorial assistant and secretary. Later, a secretary was hired and Anne moved totally into editorial work.

She says she planned to stay perhaps a year, then return to finish her seminary education, but she was able to get a temporary replacement while she finished her master's of religious education degree at Southwestern. That, plus the fact she met W. D., whom she later married, in Jackson, helped in her decision to stay.

Also, "the job grew, and my perception of it grew as to how much good it could do for the Lord," she says.

"When I was growing up in Alabama, they didn't stress anything but missions," says Anne, so, "I first said I wanted to be a foreign missionary." As she continued in school, first to Judson College, an Alabama Baptist school,

then to Southwestern, she realized she was heading for religious journalism.

She recalls the first article she ever sold was at age 12 for "Progressive Farmer." For "The History of our Farm," she received 50 cents.

In high school, she read an article in the Training Union materials about careers in religious journalism and she wrote the author, Mrs. J. E. Lambdin. The writer wrote back suggesting that Anne major in English at a Baptist college and wait for her Bible courses till seminary. Anne did that, and later earned an additional degree, a master's in English, from Mississippi College.

"After I got into the Baptist Record, I realized more and more that it is missions—we can reach people everywhere," she says. "I hope we influence people to give to missions, go for these volunteer missions projects, read the information on needs and prayer needs for missionaries." And especially, she believes the Baptist Record can help show "that people need to be missionaries in their own communities." She has been on several mission trips herself, including to Mexico and to Argentina.

When Don McGregor became editor in 1976, he invited Anne to do a weekly column, "Faces and Places," which generates more mail than any other item in the paper. Her column and feature stories "have let me know people all over the states and in other coun-

tries . . . It's made my whole world bigger."

She adds, "Usually I get more response when I go someplace or do something crazy and write about it . . . the more personal you can make it, the more readers can identify with you because they have those kinds of experiences in their own lives."

Anne's columns won her second place in national competition in the National Federation of Press Women in 1977. And she's written three books, "Beside the Point: The Gulfshore Story," "South of the Sahara" (a mission study book for National Baptists), and "David Gomes: When Faith Triumphs," published in English, Portuguese, and Spanish.

She remembers when the late Joe Odle, former Baptist Record editor called her into his office to suggest she write a book about Gomes, the Brazilian Baptist minister. In Odle's office, "David thanked the Lord that I was going to write the book—before I even said I would," she says. She started work on it two years later.

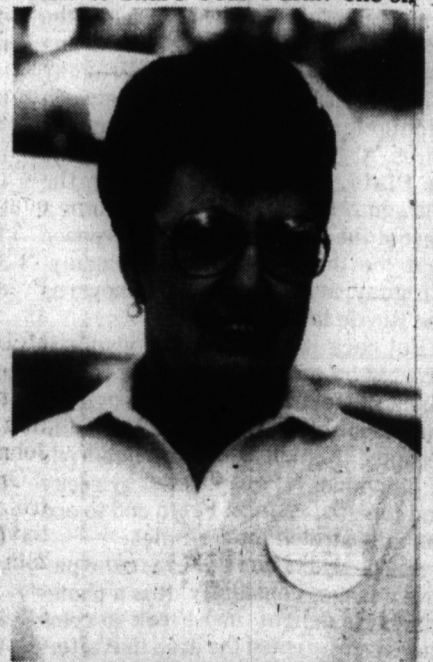
A member of Morrison Heights Church in Clinton, where she leads a group of GAS, Anne says she believes God has a special place of ministry for every Christian. A book, "Mine To Follow," she recalls, taught her "It doesn't really matter what I am as long as I'm doing what God wants me to do and heeding his instructions."

## Book Reviews

52 COMPLETE RETREAT PROGRAMS by Frank Hart Smith and Winifred Tabb Smith (Convention Press, paper, 96 pp., \$5.65) The authors planned 52 original retreat programs, including ones for youths, singles, families, children, married couples, choirs, senior adults, and church staffs. In their versatility and practicality, the programs are in this book. Some are planned in detail. Others list only the ideas and leave the rest to the individual developer. Some of the intriguing themes are "The Bible in the Marketplace"; "Both a Borrower and a Lender Be"; "How to Share Your Faith: from a Platform"; "How to Share Your Faith: one-on-

one"; "Redecorate Your Life"; "Cemetery Clean-up (or Tombstone Trim)"; "Shut-ins' Day Out"; "Out of This World . . . Series"; "TGIF: Thank God I'm Family." This is an excellent resource book that should meet well its purpose: "to help people draw aside and gain new understanding and love for themselves, for each other, and for God."—AWM

A FEAST OF FAMILIES by Virginia Stem Owens (Zondervan, 144 pp., \$9.95, hardcover) This book takes the reader beyond the "current events" treatment of the subject to an understanding of the family as an inherited legacy—a feast spread through the centuries. The book, "a celebration of all that 'family' means," is the first of Zondervan's to be published under their new imprint: Judith Markham Books. "This feast of families," as the author says, "is not all sweetness. . . . There is a good deal of saltiness—a rather large portion of bitterness—beginning with Cain and Abel." As she further explains, the book is "not strategy nor instruction," but is "a collection of stories of families struggling to transmit an old, old story. . . . Family is also the Bible's way of explaining not only us, but God, and our relation to him and to one another. Our most important metaphor for God is Father." Some of the chapter titles are "Going Home Again," "The Home Folks"; "Black Sheep"; "My Mother, My Sister"; "The Crucible of Parenthood"; "The Leaky Ark"; "Faith and our Father." This is a well written book—a book well worth reading, in a year when Baptist programs are placing a lot of emphasis on the family.—AWM



Anne Washburn McWilliams

# Falls, dam, missionary amaze Paraguayan visitor

(Continued from page 1)  
when there was not a known believer in the area. Today he keeps tabs on a church and five missions in Stroessner and a church in the nearby city of Hernandarias. He takes visitors on a tour of the area, but the main routes that the tours take are where he feels new work should be started.

The greatest need in his area, Watkins says, is for pastors to come and start churches. It takes as long as five years to get a church on its feet, he declares. He sees the need for career missionaries in this field as well as two-year volunteers from the United States who would go to spend their time in visiting much as the Mormons do. They could easily pick up the language, he notes.

The fact is, every where we went in South America, the greatest need was declared to be preaching missionaries. The ranks of the evangelists on the foreign mission field have been diminishing lately as specialists have increased, but the need continues for

preachers, was the word.

The same was said to be true for volunteers. The need is for preachers and for people to witness. Construction methods differ, particularly as they concern masonry construction. That doesn't mean that construction people can't be used, but preachers are needed.

The greatest need in construction is for carpenters in the mountain areas in the south of Argentina, where wood is used a great deal. This would be in the beauty of spots of San Martin de los Andes and Bariloche, said to be the Switzerland of Argentina.

The need for witnesses was illustrated in the immense popularity of the Mississippi basketball team that went down to Paraguay in March. They made a hit everywhere they performed and witnessed 40 professions of faith during their three games. One was rained out. When we got there later in the month, the popularity of the basketball team was still on the minds of everyone.

Another Mississippi team which made a tremendous contribution in Paraguay was Dr. and Mrs. Carter Dobbs. He is a dentist from Calhoun City. They had been in Asuncion two weeks when we got there, working on the teeth of Maka Indians who had been driven from their homes by flooding. The need was overwhelming, Dobbs said.

The government had established temporary housing by use of black plastic sheets in a city park. There Dobbs set up shop for the repair of teeth, and Mrs. Dobbs taught the children how to take care of their teeth to prevent problems. They had all of the business they could handle.

The impression that Mississippians are making on the Rio de la Plata is beginning to be felt more and more.

One minor problem is that good Lord's Supper sets are hard to find in Paraguay. It would be a welcomed gesture, Watkins said, if anyone planning to make the trip to that nation would take along a couple of sets.



The Baptist camp in Paraguay has a new water well. It needs some construction work, however.



Mrs. Carter Dobbs of Calhoun City, left, helps Indian children in Asuncion understand how to take care of their teeth. The children were with families which had been forced out of their permanent dwellings in Paraguay because of floods and were living in the city park in Asuncion.



Earl Kelly, left, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and missionary Ken Watkins stand in the door of the mission at Kilometer Six near Stroessner, Paraguay. The building is the home of a doctor and his wife who are Baptists and make the home available for the mission use.

## Washington SBC site

(Continued from page 1)  
political overtones, Davis said it was being presented because some Southern Baptists—fundamentalists and moderates alike—do not wish to go to Las Vegas because of gambling and the city's image as vice ridden.

Davis said he had a verbal agreement with the D.C. Convention Bureau to hold the second week in June of 1989 for the SBC. However, the bureau made a commitment to allow another organization to have the 20,000 seat hall on those dates.

While the proposal to substitute Washington as the site has died, reports indicate Louisville, Ky., will be presented as a site for the 1989 convention. The city was proposed as a possible site to the February, 1983, meeting of the Executive Committee, but was turned down because it does not meet current guidelines for a convention city.

Current guidelines call for a hall capable of seating 16,000 persons, 50,000 square feet of exhibit space, and 6,000 hotel rooms within two miles of the meeting hall.

## Filipinos study music

DAVAO CITY, Philippines—More than 150 Baptist musicians brought guitars, wind instruments, Philippine native stringed instruments and a hand-made violin to the first Philippine Baptist music workshop. Missionaries and Filipinos taught classes in choir and orchestral directing, composing and hymnology.

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BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3  
Thursday, May 19, 1983

There may be said to be two classes of people in the world: those who constantly divide the people of the world into two classes, and those who do not.—Robert Benchley.

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**The Baptist Record — Mississippi's missions newspaper**

## Blankenship elected, BSU—build

(Continued from page 1)  
wife, Joann, have twin sons 23, a son 20, and an 18 year old daughter.

First Church, Hattiesburg, has been involved in a cable television ministry for more than six years.

The renovation-expansion program for the BSU center at Mississippi State University has been estimated to cost between \$275,000 and \$300,000. The 1,560 square foot lower floor will be expanded to 3,925 square feet, including expanding the eating area to accommodate 400 instead of the present 150. The assembly area also will accommodate 400 after expansion. The upper floor will be renovated, and a new roof will be put on.

As a part of Decade of Advance goals, \$100,000 has been placed in student center capital needs since 1976. At the end of 1983 the balance remaining in that fund will be \$142,000, it was reported by Jerry Merriman, director of the Department of Student Work. The Executive Committee action authorized Merriman to begin to seek bids for the renovation-expansion program.

The seminary intern program will begin on Aug. 1. It will be for 10 months through the fall and spring semesters with a financial commitment of \$700 per month. The intern will be a Southwestern Seminary student who is committed to student work.

The new press will be an A. B. Dick offset press with color head. It will cost \$20,893. A 20-year-old press will be traded in for a credit of \$1,637.

The agricultural missionary in residence will be Harold Watson, agricultural missionary to the Philippines. The program will be for a maximum of four months with an outlay of \$500 per month plus travel expenses. The program is conducted in cooperation with the Foreign Mission Board.

A member of the Convention Board's auditing firm reported an unqualified audit for 1982.

A \$500 contribution was authorized for the Douglas Hudgins Chair of Preaching at First Church, Jackson, as a memorial to Hudgins. Ed McDaniel, pastor of First Church, Greenwood, was elected to the Convention Board to serve until convention time to replace Mrs. Helen Johnson, who has moved out of state.

Grants for flood victims ranged from \$200 for an individual to \$10,000 for New Hope Baptist Church. South 28th Avenue Church received \$5,000 and Rankin Association was awarded \$4,000. Pineburr Church got \$3,000, and other amounts were \$2,500, \$2,000, \$1,500, \$1,000, and \$500.

# "How pleasant it is . . . unity"

(Continued from page 1)  
conservative, but they're shy of us out of mistaken fear that we're out to destroy.

"For example, some think that we conservatives want to stifle academic freedom and liberty. All we want is to be heard and not be ridiculed. Some liberals have been doing all along what they now accuse us of doing—and that's insisting on only one viewpoint in the classroom. A classroom should give a student the tools to study and make his own decision.

"For example, I studied eschatology at Southwestern Baptist Seminary under Ray Summers. I didn't agree with his position on the Millennium. But he didn't ridicule my belief, nor try to force his interpretations on me. Yet some liberal textbooks categorically take a stand and leave no possibility of any other viewpoint. I call that narrow, whether it's in a 'conservative' or a 'liberal' textbook."

Draper admitted some conservatives shy

away from fellowshiping with any who disagree with them. "I think this is unfortunate," he said. "I can disagree with a brother on his theology, but still fellowship with him as a Christian."

"Inquiry is helpful," he said, "whether in a church or the denomination. Let's give folks a chance to speak up, to ask questions, to challenge, and not intimidate them as being 'uncooperative' or 'fundamentalists.'"

"Our annual conventions have gotten so big and expensive to attend that many Baptists feel they no longer have a voice, that no one bothers to listen. Maybe a series of regional conventions is the answer. I don't know. But maybe the factionalism we're seeing is largely frustration over how to make input into a denomination as big as ours. Let's face it. The Southern Baptist Convention is a bureaucracy. My church is a bureaucracy. We've got to

find ways to let the little fellow speak up."

Asked how he'd like for grassroots Baptists to view him, Draper answered quickly and positively. "If Jimmy Draper couldn't be a Southern Baptist, I don't know what he'd be. Southern Baptists are my life. The second Sunday in April, I preached an entire sermon on the Cooperative Program, and Doug Brown, who is with the Baptist Envelope Service, wrote me that it was one of the finest he'd ever heard me preach. Yes, we're going to see changes, particularly in structure. Some of our by-laws are vague and out of date, written for a denomination of 4 million rather than 14 million members. And I think the fact we've even considered negative designation for the Cooperative Program is indicative of further discussion on the way we support our denomination."

"I think of our struggle like a butterfly

emerging from a cocoon. History shows that every 40 to 60 years, Southern Baptists have struggled and questioned, but they always emerged stronger."

Draper is convinced that if he's opposed at Pittsburgh, the issue will be "control," not theology. "No one can say I've pushed my theology on anyone. What I want is true freedom—which is freedom within stated boundaries. It is the liberty to believe and preach and teach without being ridiculed—and also the Christian charity to grant the same to others."

"The door's open in Pittsburgh to give a Christian witness in an area where Southern Baptists are relatively unknown. I hope our testimony will be positive, and not marred by factional controversy."

(Hastings edits the Illinois Baptist newspaper.)

## SBC Resolutions Committee holds preliminary meeting

(Continued from page 1)

which will be used in introducing resolutions, noting those persons who submit resolutions in writing to the committee prior to the convention, and then introduce them at the appropriate time, will be given priority consideration by the committee.

He reiterated messengers desiring to introduce resolutions will be required to submit the resolution title, his or her name, and the church which elected him or her a messenger at the desk designated for submission of resolutions.

At the designated time in the order of business, Draper said, one of the officers will read the topics of the resolutions and the messengers submitting them, thus introducing them into the business of the convention.

Draper told Baptist Press the change was made in an effort to conserve time, and to "make it as easy as possible for every messenger to be fairly treated. This is not an effort to stifle discussion, but an effort to enlarge it."

Members of the committee include three members of the SBC Executive

Committee, as required in the bylaws. They are W. LeRay Fowler, pastor of West University Baptist Church, Houston; Thurmond George, pastor of First Baptist Church of Gilroy, Calif., and Lois Wenger, a member of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla.

Other members are Rudy Hernandez, an evangelist from Catrina, Texas; William Rhodes, an attorney from Atlanta; Joan Tyler, a businesswoman from Collins, Miss.; John Tippet, pastor of Calvary Temple Baptist Church, Savannah, Ga.; W. D. Stogner, a retired associational missionary from Bossier City, La., and Verlin Kruschwitz, a retired pastor and currently professor at Boyce Bible School, Louisville, Ky.

Bonham told Baptist Press he is "very impressed with the committee." He pointed out three members—Tippet, Kruschwitz and George—are former presidents of their state conventions, and George has been president of both the Oklahoma and California conventions. He added Stogner has been a vice president of the Louisiana convention and Hernandez currently is president of the Mexico Baptist Convention of Texas.

He added Rhodes, a layman, has been moderator of the Atlanta Baptist Association "one of the largest associations in the SBC."

"All of these people have been very active in their state conventions, in their associations and local churches. All of them come from churches with a good record of missions giving through the Cooperative Program," he added.

(Martin is BP news editor.)

### Report incorrectly identifies Bush

Last week's report of the Committee on Boards for the Southern Baptist Convention incorrectly identified Russ Bush Jr., nominated as chairman of the Denominational Calendar Committee, as being a professor at Southwestern Seminary. Instead, Russ Bush Jr., is a retired dentist in Columbia, Miss., and a former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. His son, Russ Bush III, is the professor at Southwestern.

### MC to sponsor music workshop

The Mississippi College Department of Music will sponsor a workshop in church music on Thursday, June 9, through Saturday, June 11, on the Mississippi College campus.

This workshop, designed especially for the part-time director in the smaller church, will deal with such varied topics as choral conducting, solo singing, repertoire, service playing, accompanying and general administrative matters. Private instruction in voice, organ and piano will also be available.

Tuition for this workshop is \$35, which includes a sizable packet of music for reading sessions. For further information, contact the Mississippi College Music Dept. at 924-5131, ext. 230.

The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in a period of moral crisis, maintain their neutrality.—Dante.

### 60 accept Christ

SINGAPORE—More than 60 decisions to accept Christ as personal Savior came from the 1,700 people who attended three nights of evangelistic rallies in Singapore. In conjunction with the rallies, 253 Baptist church leaders from all 22 Baptist churches in Singapore registered for a simultaneous urban church growth conference. Baptist church leaders from Malaysia, Taiwan, Bangladesh and Indonesia also attended. As a result of the conference, several Baptist churches in Singapore decided to begin extension churches in un-reached areas of the city-state.

### Autograph party will feature Denham's book

JM Publications of Brentwood, Tenn. has released the latest book written by Hardy R. Denham, Jr.,

After You've Said "I Do." It is the third in a series of books on marriage published by JM Publications, and deals with adjustments in marriage. Denham is currently writing a book on marriage renewal which will also be a part of the series.

After You've Said "I Do" was introduced at an autograph party in Newton on May 6. Another autograph party will be held at the Magnolia Bank in Clinton on Sunday afternoon, May 22, from 2 until 4. Persons in the Jackson area are invited to attend.

Denham is president of Pulpit Ministries, Inc. in Newton. He is engaged in a ministry of Bible conferences, revivals as well as marriage and family conferences. JM Publications is also publishing a commentary on First Corinthians, God's Wisdom—God's Way, and an audio tape on the book, both by Denham.

### Seminary graduation to be held at Mt. Nebo

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary will hold its 40th commencement exercises on Friday, May 27, at 10 a.m. at Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, Jackson.

The commencement speaker will be Landrum P. Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary, New Orleans, La. Leavell has served as pastor of four churches in Mississippi and one in Wichita Falls, Tex.

The seminary will award academic degrees and certificates to 45 graduates, seven who attended the main campus in Jackson and 38 who attended one of the seminary's 25 ex-

tension centers across the state. Richard Brogan is president of Mississippi Baptist Seminary and Hickman Johnson is dean of academic affairs.

Those who attended studies at the main campus include Mary Jane Jones, doctor of ministry degree; Hosie Phillips and George L. Rogers, master of theological studies; Eddie B. Cryer and Henry B. Dotson, Sr., bachelor of theology; Ella Mae Gilner, bachelor of religious education; and Mildred Jones Duckens, certificate in Biblical studies.



Baptist equipping center, Parchman.

## Parchman equipping center to be dedicated Saturday

Open house and dedication services for the Baptist equipping center at Parchman will be held May 21 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

This is the new building in Sunflower Association that relates to Mississippi Baptists' prison ministry. The first order of the day will be the open house, and a picnic at noon will follow the dedication service. The food for the picnic will be furnished by churches of the Sunflower Association churches.

Granville Watson, director of missions for Sunflower Association, pointed out that the prison ministry centering around the equipping center has entered into three phases.

The first is to the staff of the penitentiary at Parchman and their families.

The second is to the families of the inmates at Parchman through volunteer teams. The third is equipping Mississippi Baptists to minister at Parchman and in local jails. Ovis Fairley directs the ministry.

All who are interested are invited to attend the open house, dedication, and picnic, Watson said. Being invited particularly are Baptist leaders in the state and those who have contributed money, material, and labor in the building of the equipping center.

There are 14 support team captains who are soliciting money for the building, he said. The target figure is \$90,000, he indicated, and \$30,000 has been reached.

## Nominations are sought for members on boards

The Mississippi Baptist Committee on Nominations is receiving recommendations for membership on the boards of the several colleges, according to the chairman, John McCall, Vicksburg.

Recommendations for such memberships should be supported by detailed information as indicated on personal data forms which may be obtained from the Chairman of the Committee on Nominations.

All recommendations should be received by the Chairman of the Committee on Nominations not later than 60 days prior to the national convention. The chairman this year is John McCall, retired pastor of First Baptist Church, Vicksburg. His address is 943 Fort Hill Drive, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

Criteria should include the following factors:

(1) All nominees for the position of trustee of a Mississippi Baptist College should be members in good standing of a Baptist church cooperating with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

(2) All members of Boards of Trustees should be individuals who believe wholeheartedly in the program of Christian higher education as promoted by Mississippi Baptists, and should have demonstrated loyalty to or support of, the college to be served.

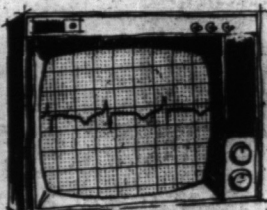
(3) Nominees should be college graduates or persons of demonstrated intellectual attainments, and should have gained recognition as leaders in their professions or occupations.

(4) Final selection should be made so as to include no more than seven nor less than four pastors for each college.

(5) Final selections should provide a broad geographical representation on the board of each college.

(6) Final selections should provide a broad spectrum of professional and business capability.

(7) Final selections should be made so as to maintain at all times a substantial number of graduates or former students of the college for which nominations are made.



## Intensive care

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### Sharing problems with children

My wife and I differ as to how much we should share with our children about problems we are having. Some of these involve simple decision making. Others involve things like money and different opinions about family recreation. She says we should never let them know we have problems. I say we ought to share some things with them so they may learn from us how we deal with them. Who is right? M.C.

Dear M.C.: Perhaps both! Children and youth usually pick up on tensions between parents whether they hear a word spoken. They may wonder, worry, and feel insecure. Depending on age, some matters may be too heavy for a child to deal with. Very early, through the family council method, children may be taken into the problem solving or decision making process and given an opportunity to express their views. They know, of course, that even when an opinion vote is taken, the parents have final deci-

sions to make. But in the process, they learn that they are respected as persons and gain some insight as to what goes into family living other than getting their own needs met.

Often young adults go to counselors with a problem and remark, "My parents never had a problem like this." The fact is that problems in the parental home were usually hushed, and there was never any modeling of how to arrive at solutions.

Christian parents do not live long together before there is some adversity that demands leaning heavily upon the grace of God. By faith and prayer they see the Father making what seems to be impossible become possible. These experiences should be shared with children and youth at the appropriate time. They need to learn from their parents that "We don't have to cross Jordan alone."

Address inquiries to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

## Daily Devotions for Newlyweds



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DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR NEWLYWEDS will help new couples learn together the joy of sharing God's Word daily. Davis Cooper states, "The time you spend using this book will not be long, but the regular discipline will be valuable and will help you learn some good lessons about marital communications." Contains three months of worship experiences with suggested communication exercises centered around twelve weekly themes. Presentation page and giftbox make this an attractive gift for newlyweds. Reg. \$5.95 SALE \$4.48 through 5/31/83

Davis Cooper is pastor of University Hill Baptist Church, Denver, Colorado.

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# 19.5% of AA goal received by May

ATLANTA (BP)—Nineteen and a half percent of the \$25 million goal for the 1983 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, \$4,881,424, had been received by mid-May, according to Home Mission Board President William G. Tanner.

Tanner, speaking to the executive committee of the agency's board of directors, noted receipts are running 2.9 percent ahead of the same period last year.

The executive committee also received news of the resignations of two HMB staff members. Ramon Martinez, director of ethnic resource coordination, will serve as ethnic education coordinator for the Florida Baptist Convention after 17 years in association with the HMB. Jack Ellenburg, associate director in missionary per-

sonnel, resigned to become pastor of Riverland Hills Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C.

Two new staff were elected to fill positions as associate directors in the missionary personnel department. William C. Graham will assist in recruiting and screening missionary candidates in the eastern United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and W. Ronald Holloway will fill the same role for the central U.S.

Graham, pastor of Middletown Baptist Church, Middletown, R.I., since 1974, has been pastor of churches in Wisconsin, Texas and Kentucky.

Holloway has been minister of education for First Baptist Church, Avondale Estates, Ga. since 1979 and has held minister of education posts in Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, and Alabama during the past 25 years.

## May 29: a triple date for Morrison Heights

Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton, will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Sunday, May 29, and on the same date will celebrate Pastor Kermit D. McGregor's fifth anniversary with the church and Victory Day, in which "Together We Share"

pledges will be announced at the close of a debt retirement campaign.

Russell M. McIntire will speak at the morning service, beginning at 10:30 a.m. He was pastor of First Baptist Church, Clinton, when that church began Morrison Heights as a mission in a tent 25 years ago; he preached the first sermon delivered at the mission, Sunday afternoon, Jan. 5, 1958. He is now pastor of Oak Park Baptist Church, New Orleans, La.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be the featured speaker for the afternoon service, to begin at 12:45 p.m.

Four of the former ministers of music will present a mini-concert at 1 p.m. They are Mike Simoneaux, former missionary to Japan, now minister of music at First Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla.; Bob Magee, missionary on leave from Colombia, now minister of music at 38th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg; Robert Spencer, Marshall, Tex.; and Roland Shaw, Hattiesburg.

Other special guests will include L. Gordon Sansing, Meridian, who was the first acting pastor; Charles Gentry, Clinton, pastor from 1964 to 1977; Walter Howard, mayor of Clinton; Dale Oden, West Monroe, La., former minister of education; and Bill Watson, First Baptist, Lufkin, Tex., former minister of education.

Dinner will be served on the grounds.

A banquet for charter members will be held on Sat., May 28.

## Colonial Heights to present duo-pianists

Colonial Heights Baptist Church will present duo-pianists, Stephen Nielson and Ovid Young in concert, Monday, May 23, at 7 p.m. This concert is the first program in the churches 1983 concert series. The other concerts are to present Bob Bailey on July 7, Cynthia Clawson on Sept. 1, and John and Vickijo Witty on Nov. 10.

Nielson and Young have performed as soloists throughout the United States. Now they are combining their talents for this tour. Each has accompanied the singing team of Hale and Wilder.

There will be an admission charge of \$5.00 at the door. Season tickets are available for \$14.00, for the four concerts. The church's telephone number is 956-5000. J. Gerald Harris is pastor. Don Bennett is minister of music.

## Revival results

Thcowa (Panola): April 24-29; Jimmy Anthony, who became pastor of the church Feb. 14, evangelist; music under direction of Danny and Reba Perkins of Calvary Church, Batesville; Tommy Anthony, pianist; five additions by letter; 11 professions of faith, for baptism.

## 8 Mississippians are graduated from Southwestern Seminary

FORT WORTH, Tex.—Eight students with Mississippi ties were in the 75th anniversary graduating class of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary May 13.

President Russell H. Dilday Jr. conferred degrees on 402 students. Wayland Baptist University President David L. Jester addressed the group.

Mississippi graduates are: Robert Morris Overton, doctor of ministry, son of Mrs. Edna Harrison, Amory; Charles Duncan Hampton, master of divinity, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hampton, Tupelo; Patricia

Hannaford Day, master of religious education, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon E. Hannaford, Sr., Senatobia; Rowe Conwell Holcomb, master of religious education, son of Rowe C. Holcomb, Sr., Hazelhurst; Walter Wesley Pegues, master of religious education, son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Pegues, Tupelo; David R. Hadley Jr., master of religious education, son of David R. Hadley Sr. (mother deceased), Dannelle, Fla., and son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Kyle, Jackson, Miss.; Roger Dallas Bear, master of divinity, son-in-law of Mrs. Robert Alldridge, Grenada; and Marcus Lee Gibbs, master of religious education, son-in-law of Don and Laura Faulkner, Lucedale, and minister of music at First Baptist Church, Farmersdale, Tex.



## Cold Springs to dedicate auditorium

Cold Springs Baptist Church, Collins, will have a dedication service for its new auditorium, Sunday, May 22, at 2 p.m. Jerry Oswalt, pastor, Second Avenue Baptist Church, Laurel, will bring the dedication message. Other guests on the program will be L. B. Atchison, director of missions for Covington/Jeff Davis Association; Joe Ratcliff and James Bristor of Collins; Russell C. Harris, pastor.

The building is 50 feet x 82 feet, and has 382 seating capacity. During the two years building program the church raised \$105,205.25. In order to get in the building at this time, the church borrowed \$10,000.00 to complete it. "It is believed by the Financial Committee that the debt will be paid off in ten months," said Harris.

## Staff Changes

Paula Smith has accepted the position as minister of education and youth at First Baptist Church, Flowood. She goes from North Carrollton Baptist Church and is the daughter of the late W. Martin Smith, a minister, and Mrs. Martin Smith of North Carrollton. She was graduated from Clarke College, William Carey College, and Southwestern Seminary.

Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson, has called John Allen Thomason as pastor. He will move to Mississippi from the pastorate of Temple Baptist Church, Champaign, Ill. Thomason was born in Corpus Christi, Tex. He has a B.A. degree from Baylor University and master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and has done graduate study at Oxford University, Oxford, England, and at University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, Ill.

The congregation of Northminster will hold a special ecumenical service of worship at the church on Sunday, May 22, at 4 p.m., with a reception following, to welcome their new pastor.

George Gerald Aultman has accepted the pastorate of Immanuel Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, effective June 1. For the past 11 years he has been pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Brookhaven. He is presently serving as Mississippi Baptist Convention Board member, from Lincoln Association.

Aultman is a native of Sumrall, and is a graduate of Sumrall High School, Clarke College, University of Southern Mississippi, and New Orleans Seminary.

First Baptist Church, Ocean Springs, has called Keith Dempsey as activities director. A student at New Orleans Seminary, he is from Oxford, Ala., and attended Jackson State University in Alabama and MC at Clinton.

John Causey, pastor of First Church, Corinth, recently participated in a Bold Mission Preaching Venture, along with 10 other preachers, a layman, and two wives. The group left Jackson for Argentina on April 6. In Argentina, Causey was assigned the San Justo church. Missionary Mark Alexander served as his interpreter. Causey reports 12 first-time decisions for Christ and 30 other decisions, 10 for baptism. First Church, Corinth, provided the funds for Causey's trip out of special offerings.

A. J. Pace, pastor of East Moss Point Baptist Church, Moss Point, received a doctor of Ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla., on Friday, May 6. Commencement exercises were held at First Baptist Church, Jacksonville. Robert G. Witty, chancellor of Luther Rice Seminary, was the commencement speaker. Pace began his tenth year of service at the East Moss Point Baptist Church on Sunday, May 8. He is a graduate of Clarke College, Blue Mountain College, and New Orleans Seminary. He has also done additional graduate study at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Murray, members of Second Baptist Church, Kosciusko, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on May 3. They were married May 3, 1913, at the Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church, Meridian. They lived in Tupelo from 1914 to 1937 and were members of Second Baptist Church where Murray served as deacon, Sunday School director, and on the Building Committee. Mrs. Murray was a Sunday School teacher.

The Murrays moved to Kosciusko in 1937 and joined Second Baptist Church. In this church he has served as deacon, Sunday School director, choir member, and member of the Building Committee. He has also served on the Executive Board of the Attala Baptist Association. Mrs. Murray, 91, is still teaching the Senior Ladies Sunday School class.

Carl Braswell, pastor of Second Baptist Church, had a special recognition for the Murrays in the morning service on May 1. The flowers were placed in their honor in the sanctuary by their family.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray have two children, George W. Murray, member of Second Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., and Mrs. E. T. (Irma M.) Glover of Smackover, Ark. Mrs. Glover is a 1943 graduate of Mississippi College. Her husband, Ed Glover, is a 1949 graduate of Mississippi College, and is pastor of Maple Avenue Baptist Church, Smackover, Ark.

Hernando Baptist Church is planning for four full days of Vacation Bible School, May 23-26, plus a half day (8 to 12 a.m.) on May 27, featuring Bible study, crafts and activities. Hoyle Pennington will be the VBS director. Tommy Carpenter is director of activities and W. E. Corkern is pastor.

Community Baptist Church, Laurel, is presenting a six-part film series on "The Family, God's Pattern for Living," taught by John MacArthur, pastor-teacher of Grace Community Church in California. The series began May 12 and will end June 19, each Sunday night at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Church, 3515 Audubon Drive, Laurel. Buster Wilson, pastor-teacher and radio minister at Community Church, said, "This is a fresh and stimulating Bible search for answers to the problem in today's families."

Phalti Baptist Church, Jefferson Davis Association, recently held a recognition service, MEN TO MATCH MY MOUNTAINS, honoring RAs. Ten young men received badges. Mary Ruth Butler is the RA leader and Jim Roberson is pastor.

Calvary Baptist Church, Columbus (Lowndes) will hold Vacation Bible School May 30-June 3, beginning at 8 a.m. each day. Mike Carroll, minister of youth, reports that the commencement service will be held during the evening service, June 5, at 7 p.m. Roy Hawkins is the pastor.

Corinth Baptist Church, Jasper County, held a gospel sing on Sat., May 14, at 7 p.m. The Abercrombies were the featured singers. Edd Holloman is the pastor.

Ebenezer Baptist Church, Senatobia will hold Vacation Bible School May 30-June 3. Preparation Day will take place May 28, 9:30 until 11:30 a.m. A parade will follow preparation time. School hours will be from 8:30 until 11:30 a.m. for boys and girls, birth through 17. Hours for the Backyard Bible Club will be from 7 until 9 p.m., with all ages. Parents Night will be June 3 at 7 p.m. Claude Lazenby is pastor.

Thirty-five men and women from various churches in Panola Association will go to Billings, Mont., this summer on a volunteer mission trip. The men will do construction on a dormitory on Yellowstone Baptist College campus and the women will teach backyard Bible classes in various parts of the city. At night all will join area churches for evangelistic services.

## Homecomings

Danville (Alcorn): homecoming June 5, morning service preached by a former pastor of Danville Church; pot-luck dinner; afternoon gospel singing; Ed Alexander, pastor.

Mt. Zion Church, Snell community: homecoming was held May 15; Haskel McMullen, pastor at Stonewall, spoke at the morning service; lunch was served at noon; gospel sing in the afternoon featured the Tri-Tones; Ferrell Morris, pastor.

Antioch (Lawrence): homecoming; May 22; James Whittington, speaker at 11 a.m. service; lunch served at the church; singing in the afternoon; John Hedgepeth, pastor.

Good Hope Church, Richton: May 29; homecoming; Billy Murphy, former pastor, guest speaker; song service after lunch at the church.

Heuck's Retreat Baptist Church, Brookhaven: homecoming day; May 29; Bobby Smith, guest speaker; dinner to be served at noon in the fellowship hall; memorial service and cemetery report at 1:15 p.m.; Bud Swindall, pastor.

County Line (Copiah): homecoming; May 29; Sunday School 10 a.m.; morning worship at 11; lunch in the fellowship hall; group singing in the afternoon; guest speaker, D. W. Green; pastor, Robert Mack.

## Revival Dates

East Corinth Church, Corinth: May 15-20; Ken Bradley, pastor, Carey Chapel Church, Mt. Pleasant, preaching; Charles Dill, pastor; services at 7:30 nightly.

Rienzi Church (Alcorn): youth-centered revival; May 29-June 3; Randy Bostick, pastor, First Baptist Church, Tishomingo, preaching; Truman Stockdale, leading music; Wiley Gann, pastor; services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sun.; 7:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

First Church, Escatawpa: May 22-25; at 10:50 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sun.; at 7 each evening, Mon.-Wed.; Sam Wolfe, Huntsville, Ala., evangelist; Ray Campbell, pastor.

South Corinth Church, Corinth: May 30-June 3; Mike Burczynski, pastor, Tate Street Church, Corinth, preaching; Tommy Kelley, pastor, Caneah Church, Tippah Association, leading music; Edward Knox, pastor; services at 7:30 nightly.

Hernando Baptist Church: youth-led revival; June 5-8; Phil Glisson, evangelist; music led by Charles Ritchie; services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sun.; 7:30 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; W. E. Corkern, pastor. (There will be guest musicians, both vocal and instrumental, testimonies, and a soul winning clinic.)

McBee Baptist Church (Lowndes): June 26-29; George Myers, evangelist; Allen Landers, pastor.

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Charles Dill, pastor of East Corinth Church, Corinth, recently completed the work for his Doctor of Ministry degree from Southern Baptist Center for Biblical Studies, Marietta, Ga.

Bill Wible was presented a license on April 17, to preach the gospel. The presentation was made by Jimmy D. Garrard, pastor of the Greens Creek Baptist Church, Petal. Wible was licensed at Greens Creek in February, when Ray Grissett was serving there as interim pastor. Wible is available to serve as supply pastor, interim pastor, and/or other consideration. He may be contacted at Rt. 5, Box 18, Hattiesburg, Miss. 39401.

Wible

Wible

## "Children's TV needs federal guidelines"

By Greg Warner

WASHINGTON (BP)—Television programs for children should be governed by federal guidelines and not by the law of supply and demand, Jimmy R. Allen told the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) April 28.

Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, spoke at a public hearing of the FCC, which is once again considering regulating children's television programming and advertising practices.

The FCC first took up the matter in 1971, issuing a strongly worded policy statement three years later that said broadcasters have a special obligation to serve children. An FCC task force reported in 1979 broadcasters had not complied and recommended further action.

But recent decisions have favored less government regulation of television and radio content and more dependence on the marketplace. FCC chairman Mark Fowler has stated TV ratings better represent the public interest and should replace the FCC as a judge of program content.

Allen and others argued children are a special audience that has little voice in the economic marketplace or in the ratings and should be treated separately. "There is a burden on children's programming in the marketplace on the individual programmer who has to be competitive in a place where this kind of program really won't make money," Allen said.

All three television networks defended their performance at the hearings. CBS representative Roger Colof said his company had made a "meaningful and sincere effort" to supply quality programs for children.

Fowler asked each network representative if he felt a personal obligation to children which affected his programming decisions. Although conceding broadcasters have a special obligation to serve children, the network representatives were reluctant to describe the role their personal morality played in programming decisions.

Fowler said while he was personally concerned about children's programs, he would not support FCC action to mandate a certain amount of children's programming on TV stations, since that could force other needed programs off the air.

In all, 20 people testified at the hearings, including educators, psychologists, advertisers, producers and station owners. The FCC has not set a date for final action.

(Warner writes for the Radio-Television Commission.)

## Simpson plans mission day on May 21

Saturday, May 21, will be Mission Day in Simpson Baptist Association.

A G.A. day camp will begin at 9 a.m. at the association's Pavilion, for GAs, ages 6-11. There will be mission activities, Bible study, and recreation time. "Each girl is asked to bring her lunch, including a drink," said H. Glen Schilling, director of missions.

At 1:30 p.m. there will be a mission inspiration program at the Association Center for all ages. The program will consist of singing, special music, greetings from the different departments of the state Baptist convention, and greetings from Montana shared by Billy Ferguson, pastor of East Helena Baptist Mission. Karl Wallace, missionary to Peru, will be guest speaker.

Following this program, a mission fair will be held. Thirty Baptist churches will display information about 30 different mission fields. "The public is invited to all the activities," said Schilling.

## Arlington Heights will celebrate 20th

Arlington Heights Baptist Church, Pascagoula, will celebrate its 20th anniversary with "Miracle Day" and Homecoming on May 29.

Events of the day will include "dinner on the grounds" and high attendance in Sunday School. Victory, Hallelujah, and Miracle attendance goals have been set. Former staff member Randy Von Kanel, pastor of Temple Church in Jackson Association, will preach in the morning service.

Music will be directed by Noel Jacobs in the morning and Lamar Callahan in the evening. Both are former ministers of music at Arlington. Others will take part in the praise service in the evening. Recorded greetings from former pastors will be played in the services. Howard Taylor is pastor.

## Devotional Why all the trials?

By Linda Mattox, Rienzi

*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world (John 16:33).*

Have you ever felt that you might be just a little kin to Job? Although most of us have never fully been put to the test as Job was, can we not identify somewhat with his feelings of anguish and helplessness?

Nowhere in God's Word can the Christian find a promise of escape from the trying circumstances of this life. In fact, just the opposite is stated in John 16:33 by Jesus. He tells us that as long as we live in this world trials will surely come our way.

But why all the trials, Lord? Have most of us not been guilty of asking this question? It is when pressures surround us, friends reject us, persecution in its many forms begins to come our way, and our own little world begins to crumble that our faith in God is put to the real test. This is what separates the true believer from the rest of the world. In II Corinthians 4:1, 16, we find that true believers do not faint under the trials of faith.

The trials of this life actually bring glory to the Christian. As we survive each test placed before us, we become a little stronger in our faith. Each time we win a victory, it brings us just a little closer to becoming more like Christ. And the more Christ-like we become, the more we please God.

Our faith may become strained at times, but we are promised in Romans 8:28 that "all things work together for good to them that love God." We are not promised that all that we encounter in this life will be good. But God can take an unpleasant situation and bring good to pass from it.

Jesus promises to give us peace if we follow him and remain steadfast. If you are facing the refining fire of trials, then be of good courage. God will help you win the victory if you will only trust him.

(Linda Mattox, vocational counselor at Biggersville High School, is a member of Union Baptist Church, Corinth, Miss.)

## Bailey Smith says church construction snags over

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—Construction of the "largest Southern Baptist auditorium in the world" has begun at First Southern Baptist Church of Del City.

Bailey Smith, pastor of the 15,539-member congregation and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has told church members that a new site for a proposed 7,000-seat auditorium has been secured and construction is underway.

The church has been involved in a controversy for seven months concerning a previously announced site. The U.S. Air Force objected to that site, saying the church would be built 6,700 feet from the end of the Tinker Air Force Base alternate runway. Others, including the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, joined in objecting to the church locating on the site.

Smith told Baptist Press the matter was resolved when "13 area financial institutions went together and made arrangements" for the church to recover part of its loss on the original site and provided an alternate 83-acre parcel of land as a construction site.

The pastor admitted the arrangement "is complicated" and said the church's chairman of deacons and attorney, Jim Lee, had worked it out with the assistance of Oklahoma City Chamber President Edward H. Cook.

Cook told Baptist Press: "We really worked kind of a miracle. The Air Force came down hard against the church building there. The church had to go somewhere else. The financial institutions found a means whereby the loss could be made up. Some are actually donating money; others are working different methods. They found an individual who would donate the new site."

In his pastor's column of April 13 Smith told the church members: "We now have a beautiful location. We have 80 acres paid for, \$2 million to be paid to us over a period of years plus our property here (current church building) and the (disputed) property to sell."

Smith said the church will continue to be First Southern Baptist Church, even though the new building site is wholly within the Oklahoma City limits. "We will be only a mile and 400 yards outside Del City," he said.

## World Christianity is becoming Baptistified

By Norman Jameson

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—World Christianity is becoming increasingly "Baptistified" according to one of America's best known modern church historians.

Martin Marty, professor of the history of modern Christianity at the University of Chicago, delivered two addresses at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, as part of the seminary's 75th anniversary observance.

He told an audience of Baylor University religion faculty and Southwestern Seminary's theological faculty that the Baptist form of Christianity which emphasizes persuasion and decision is gaining popularity over the "catholic" form of nurture, that "Christian children spring from the loins of Christian parents."

Marty, associate editor of *The Christian Century*, editor of the newsletter *Context* and coeditor of *Church History*, proved his claims he is an "unabashed Baptist watcher" by addressing several topics which have embroiled Baptists in recent years.

He said he had never seen an argument over the authority of the Bible that was not an attempt to use it as a weapon against other members of the church.

On school prayer, Marty explained that to have authority, one must be under authority. He said Baptist strength comes from leaning on God, which is why he was so bemused by the Southern Baptist Convention's passage last summer of a resolution affirming a constitutional amendment supporting school prayer. "Southern Baptists' school prayer resolution leads us away from the power of God to the power of government to dictate the circumstances in which we work."

Baptist tradition is typed as the

"church of the disinherited," he said. It is a creation of "people people" and "folk folk" who had the "unimpaired imagination" and "vehement force of need" to show where the power in society was missing the sources of need.

Real power comes through weakness, he said, because "God works on us when he sees our power gone. Even our strongest institutions are so frail."

"The power of being an outsider meant you had no resource to fall on except the divine resource," Marty said. Early Baptists did not have the burden of keeping the culture going.

Baptists no longer are outsiders in most of America's southland. They have become the religion of the culture in the areas of their strength. Marty said that does not mean Baptists or Southwestern should go back to being smaller, or retreating from their role of strength. But he urged the leadership to "keep the perception that simple people had in charting this place (Southwestern)."

(Jameson writes for SWBTS.)

## Off the Record

Executive: "Where is my pencil?"  
Secretary: "Behind your ear."  
Executive: "Come, come. I'm a busy man. Which ear?"

For the third straight time, the little boy brought home a terrible report card. After reading it with a shudder, the dad's father signed it with an "X."

"Why did you do that?" the boy asked.  
"I don't want the teacher to think that anyone with marks like that has a father who can read and write," the father replied.

## 209 Washington pastors, deacons, and wives gather

Washington County Baptist Association had a successful Pastor/Deacon/Wives Conference on May 3, at Second Baptist Church, Greenville.

There were 209 at the conference, representing 17 of the 21 churches in the association. The church with the largest number present was First Baptist Church, Greenville, with 52, reports Roy D. Raddin, director of missions.

The theme of the conference, "Moving from Maintenance to Ministry," was presented in a general worship period.

Four simultaneous conferences included:

**Pastors**—The Pastor's Role in Developing Deacons; **Deacons**—Deacons Involved in Pastoral Ministries; **Pastor/Deacon Relationships**; **Pastors' Wives**—Needs of the Deacons' Role; **The Wife's Supporting Role**; **Deacons' Wives**—Needs of the Deacons' Role; **The Wife's Supporting Role**.

Conference leaders were: Carl Savell, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Martin, and Mrs. Wilda Fancher. The evening meal was a pot luck covered dish supper.

## Bible Book

### Secession of northern kingdom

By Joe H. Tuten, pastor,  
Calvary, Jackson  
I Kings 11:41-14:20

It may be helpful at this point to review briefly the history of the government of the twelve tribes of Israel, from the time of their settlement in the land of Canaan. After the land was settled under the leadership of Joshua and Caleb, there was a long period of approximately 300 years when various judges provided leadership for the different tribes.

The Bible says, "In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25). Samuel was the last of the judges. When he became old, the people insisted upon having a king "that we also may be like all nations" (I Samuel 8:20). The Bible interprets this determination to have a king as a rejection not of Samuel and his sons but of Jehovah God (I Samuel 8:4-9).

With God's permission and under God's direction, Samuel anointed Saul, a man of Benjamin, the first king of the nation (I Samuel, Chapters 9 and 10). Saul was never able to solidify his leadership and rule over the twelve tribes because he relied upon his own charisma and did not trust in God.

God instructed Samuel to anoint young David, from Bethlehem, the son of Jesse, as King (I Samuel 16:6-13). David became king over all twelve tribes and ruled 40 years, from 1012 B.C. until 972 B.C.

Solomon became King and ruled forty years, from 972 B.C. until 933 B.C. He built the Temple and made the nation rich, but he did not build the spiritual foundation of life. Secularism prevailed; government became burdensome to the people; the worship of pagan gods was encouraged from the capitol by Solomon and his many foreign wives; the redeeming God was treated not as the only true and living God but as one among many gods. With all of Solomon's massive building program, much with forced labor, he had built upon the sand.

**Solomon's death (I Kings 11:41-43).** Solomon died after a reign of forty years. The history of his reign, including his wisdom which the Bible in no way disputes, was recorded in a book named "the acts of Solomon." Solomon's tragic mistake was that he served God half-heartedly and "went not fully after Jehovah, as did David his father" (I Kings 11:6). He died, and Rehoboam, his son, ascended to the throne in Jerusalem.

**Rehoboam's foolish decision (I Kings 12:1-15).** Almost as soon as Solomon died the prophecy of Ahijah the

Shilonite began to progress toward fulfillment (See I Kings 11:26-40). Rehoboam returned from Egypt where he had fled from the threat of Solomon.

Jerusalem, the site of much of Solomon's building program, especially for his foreign wives, was located in Judah. People from the other tribes had been compelled to leave their families to go to Jerusalem and build the palaces for the luxurious comfort and pleasure of Solomon's wives. It was cruel despotism deeply resented by a democratic-minded people. Rehoboam's foolish decision was to threaten an oppressed people with greater oppression (Kings 12:12-14). It did not work. The oppressed people had nothing to lose.

**Jeroboam's successful revolt (I Kings 12:16-24).** Remember, David had ruled first over the tribe of Judah (Judah and Benjamin counted as one) for seven years (1012 B.C. until 1003 B.C.) before the other ten tribes requested that he become their king also.

"To your tents, O Israel" (Kings 12:16) was the battle cry of revolt. The ten northern tribes broke away after being a part of the united kingdom approximately 73 years. When Rehoboam tried to continue his forced labor policies the people stoned Adoram. The ten northern tribes made Jeroboam their King. The new northern kingdom, usually called Israel, would continue 210 years until destroyed by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. The southern kingdom, usually called Judah, would continue 346 years until destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 B.C.

**Jeroboam establishes rival worship centers (I Kings 12:25-33).** Jeroboam's motive in establishing rival worship centers was a political one. He wanted to woo the people away from Jerusalem, the established capitol.

**Prophet predicts Bethel's destruction (I Kings 13:1-10).**

**The prophet meets disaster for disobeying God (I Kings 13:11-34).** This is one of the most fascinating stories in the Bible. The bottom line of the story is that the messenger of God better get his message directly from God and not from a secondary source. And the people who hear him will do well to encourage him to speak God's message without their interference; otherwise, he will not be worth listening to.

**Ahijah rightly prophesies God's judgment on Jeroboam's house (I Kings 14:1-20).**

## Uniform

### On trial in Jerusalem

By John G. Armistead, pastor,  
Calvary, Tupelo  
Acts 22:30-23:11

Christ never promised anyone that following him would be easy. His call to discipleship is a call to bear the cross. No one knew that better than Paul. At the time of his conversion, Paul was told by Jesus that he would suffer much for his Lord (Acts 9:16). It is precisely this kind of person, one who is willing to remain utterly faithful no matter what the cost, that Christ needed then and needs today.

God had richly blessed Paul's missionary activities among the Gentiles in Galatia, Asia, Macedonia, and Achaia. During his Asian ministry Paul became deeply impressed with a desire to go to the very heart of the empire, Rome itself, and preach the gospel (Acts 19:21) and from there to continue westward to work in Spain (Rom. 15:24). However, God led him to want to visit Jerusalem one last time. His heart's desire was still that the Jews there would wholeheartedly accept Jesus as Messiah.

**I. Paul was determined to be faithful (20:1-21:15)**

Paul decided to take several Gentile friends with him to Jerusalem (20:4). In spite of the prejudice towards Gentiles even among Christian Jews Paul wanted them to be seen as "living proof" of the grace of God. Still quite Jewish himself, he wanted to arrive at Jerusalem before the feast of Pentecost (20:16).

He was determined to be faithful in following God's will no matter how costly that might be to him. He was willing to pay the price even though it meant personal dangers (20:22-24), the separation from loved ones (20:25, 37, 38) and the agonizing concern it brought his friends (21:4, 10-12). He knew full well what awaited him, but he said, "I am ready not only to be bound but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus" (21:13).

**II. Paul seized every opportunity to be faithful (21:16-23:29)**

Paul and his companions were welcomed at Jerusalem by James, Jesus' brother, and the leaders of the church. They rejoiced at Paul's report of the successful work among the Gentiles but tactfully pointed out to Paul that there were "many thousands" of Jewish believers in Jerusalem, and these were "all zealous of the law" (21:18-20).

There were rumors among the Jerusalem Christians that Paul was teaching Jews outside Palestine to give up following the law. James, eager that Paul put these rumors to rest, offered a very practical solution.

Four members of the Jerusalem church had taken a Nazarite vow. Paul could join them in shaving the head and spending a week in the temple in ceremonial cleansing. Then all would know he still followed the law (21:22-24). Paul agreed and joined these four men (21:26).

As the week was coming to a close, Asian Jews recognized Paul and started a riot by accusing him of taking a Gentile into the court of Israel (21:27-30). Paul was rescued by the Roman soldiers. Before he was led away, however, he preached to the angry mobs (21:40-22:21). Paul gave the simple testimony of his experience on the Damascus road and how Jesus had saved him. Paul faithfully seized every opportunity, no matter how unfavorable, to bear witness of Christ.

**III. Paul was faithful no matter how severe the trial (22:30-23:10)**

Learning Paul was a Roman citizen and wanting to get to the heart of the trouble, the Roman tribune, Claudius Lysias, ordered the Jewish leaders, the Sanhedrin, to assemble and brought Paul before them. Ananias was then the high priest.

Paul addressed the Sanhedrin as "brothers." Ananias ordered a guard to hit him in the mouth. Paul then recognized that the Sanhedrin was composed of the two Jewish sects, the Sadducees and the Pharisees. The worldly Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection or in the spirit world. Paul said, "I am a Pharisee" (23:6). He did not say he "had been" a Pharisee but that he was presently a Pharisee. In that Pharisees believed in the resurrection, in following God's word closely, and in seeking purity, Paul was still a Pharisee. He had found that purity, however, in Christ, not keeping the law.

He pointed out that he was actually on trial for proclaiming the resurrection. The Pharisees immediately sided for him, saying, "We find no evil in this man" (23:9). A general riot then broke out and the Roman soldiers rushed in to rescue Paul once more. Again Paul had been faithful to witness. No doubt he had intended to bring out the resurrection of Jesus but was cut short.

Undoubtedly everything seemed quite dark to Paul. In prison it seemed all hope of ever preaching Christ in Rome was now dashed. However, the next night Jesus gave him another vision. The Lord came and stood by him and assured him that as he had witnessed there in Jerusalem so would he witness in Rome (23:11). During the darkest trials Christ comes to stand by us with his assurance.

## Life and Work

### Invitation to life

By Beverly V. Tinnin, pastor,  
First, Meridian  
Isaiah 55:1-11

The loftiest peak among the towering ranges of the Old Testament is undoubtedly that scripture passage which contains the Ten Commandments. Israel placed the tablets of stone upon which they were first engraved in the ark of the covenant. This repository was so holy that even to touch it was to die. Central in Judaism was the Torah's instruction as to how a man should live in relationships with God and his own peers.

In the New Testament, the "Everest" among all the great material is the "Sermon on the Mount." Jesus had declared that his disciples' righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees. His code, as contained in the Beatitudes, explained the content of true happiness. Among the cluster of gems is the pearl, "Blessed are ye that hunger and thirst after righteousness" (Mt. 5:6). The passage of Isaiah from which Jesus borrowed this thought constitutes our lesson for today.

**Spiritual water and food (Vv. 1,2)**

Three times in verse one the word "come" appears. This involves an act of volition by a moral being, rather than that of a robot. The choice to make is either to come or turn aside. We might imagine that Zaccheus was the epitome of the self-assured, successful man. His highly lucrative business afforded him a rich standard of living. Jesus saw the small of stature man as miserable and in desperate need of a saviour. At his invitation, Zaccheus acceded and brought Jesus to his home, changing his life. He publicly announced that he would make restitution to all he had wronged.

The need that Jesus saw men as having was for that which he described as water. (Many times and in many places water has been of far more value than oil or any other luxury. In Kuwait recently water was selling for \$60.00 a barrel.) He furnished the inspiration for the song of recent years, "The best things in life are free." Many cannot buy sunlight, air, the ocean, forgiveness, love, etc. The prophet points out that extravagances do not result in the truly great gifts.

As Jesus pointed out to the "woman at the well," he would supply water that would eternally satisfy. His gift would result in a well within that was never ending. How sad to see people squandering all for that which could never satisfy. Isaiah points to the bread and water that does, and encourages Israel to "eat and live."

**The covenant with the patriarchs (Vv. 3-5)**

The covenant God made with Abram was renewed with Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses. In David's day it was expanded to include his lineage as that which would bless all nations. In latter days the people in captivity wondered if God had forsaken his pledge to David.

Isaiah prophesied that the purpose of God in no way would be defeated. His promises would come true. The "holiness of Israel" would come from the seed of David. His coming would be met by the nations which would turn to him. His mission, though bitterly contested, would come to a successful fruition.

**Seek ye the Lord (Vv. 6-9)**

Years after Isaiah penned these words, we hear John the Baptist verbalizing them, "The Kingdom of God is at hand." It would take a positive move on the part of the people to participate in the benefits of the kingdom. As in the case of Agrippa who said, moved by the preaching of Paul, "Alas, most persuaded me to be a Christian." But as the hymn has it:

"Almost cannot avail,  
Almost is but to fail,  
Sad, sad that bitter wall  
Almost but lost."

Perhaps the meaning of verse seven was that the people in captivity were unwilling to leave their riches in Babylon in order to gain the true riches of God. The meaning of repent is "turning away from" and "turning to God." The marvelous, unbelievable mercy of God as shown to David when the prophet Nathan led him to repent of his sins would be experienced by them. The penalty of their sin would be removed "as far as the east is from the west." They only needed to "turn to God" to receive his mercy.

One thing the prophet makes clear is the fact our thoughts are not the Lord's. Our motives are mixed while his are pure. Our commitments are qualified, while God's is complete. Our devotion is partial at best while his was total all the way to the cross. The good thing is we don't have to understand God, we only need to accept him.

**His Word is life (Vv. 10, 11)**

In nature the prophet explains how God cares for the necessities of life. He sends rain to soften the soil, to germinate the seeds, to make growth take place, and insures the harvest. His word accomplishes this in the spiritual realm. When it is sown, it enters the heart, is nourished by the Holy Spirit, and results in a witness that is true and fruitful.